

## JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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Editorial Committee Helen <sup>Post</sup> Stanley Manierre-- Akiko Yamaguchi

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MINISTERING TO THE MAN BACK OF THE JOINT VENTURE

"The Westerner must be aware that in Asia people look upon him as a descendant of the colonial administrators, even though this is not in his thinking," an economics professor told foreign business men and their pastors at a session of the Conference on Ministry to Laymen Abroad in Asia, held in Tokyo, April 14-17.

The lecture, by the Rev. Robert Ballon, professor of economics, Sophia University, was part of the Conference sponsored by Tokyo Pastors of Overseas Congregations and attended by some fifty persons from seven Asian countries in addition to Japan. The majority of the persons registered for the full conference were pastors of English- and German-speaking congregations with English, Australian, Indian, Filipino, German and American nationalities represented. A few business men and Japanese pastors attended some sessions.

The residue of historical colonialism pointed out by Father Ballon was not the only barrier stressed by speakers and participants. They cited the harsh realities of cultural differences; value standards that differ from those in the West; "illiteracy" in the national language; economic gaps; uprootedness; temporariness; isolation from one's own culture.

Father Ballon crackled and snapped as he asked, "How can a man possibly come to an entirely different environment and assume that things run the same way they did at home?" That will be interpreted as a remnant of colonialism, he warned.

He held out, however, the image of the emerging new professional who will be an "international business men" versed in the complexities of global marketing. He also foresaw the place for studies of "the Asian dimensions" in business practices. As characteristics desirable for a man assigned overseas, Father Ballon listed "adaptability, patience and prudence," adding, "If the man's wife isn't adaptable, he will never make it."

A panel of five Tokyo business men described the pressures they feel in an intensified form in Tokyo:

an excessive amount of travelling;

the pressure to produce because of what it costs to have a man in Tokyo;

business methods that offend the Western Christian's sense of ethics, including bribes, pay-offs, etc.;

the wide range of responsibility beyond the scope of one's specialization; pressures on the wife, who must make her own setting while her husband moves into one created by his company;

the pervading fear that, in the process of making compromises, a person will lose his sense of where the limits are.

Yet, in spite of the flood of problems and frustrations there were also expressions of hope as to what the Christian laymen overseas might do, through his personal life, his role in his company, and in terms of long-range economic patterns.

Pastors present expressed deep feelings of responsibility for laymen overseas but also recounted factors that frustrate their efforts to minister to them: excessive business and social pressures in the foreign community; the tendency of people not to establish church ties when they move; linguistic, economic and cultural barriers to natural relationships with national churches; the pastors' own feelings of incompetence in the area of business ethics.

The personal adjustments required in living abroad--and what the churches can and should do about them--were discussed by Dr. Anne Kaemmerer-Wetzel, Tokyo psychiatrist. Dr. Kaemmerer emphasized the complex of new experiences that business men and their families face. Little in their lives to date has prepared them for what they face, and many come with false expectations she said. She emphasized the need to "put down roots," no matter how short a time one plans to stay.

The Rev. Joseph A. Spae, Oriens Institute for Research, spoke of some trends he sees in the service of persons who are Christian missionaries. He emphasized the "person," the diakonia, the need for "ecumenical sensitivity," and the fact that "the missionary force must be "explicitly international and interracial."

Japanese church members of a panel were specific about things that can bring closer relationships between foreign and national congregations: work projects that are not dependent upon language; giving, if accompanied by an equal concern for restoring relationships; the appointment of a Japanese pastor as assistant in a foreign congregation.

Various ways were suggested to deal with the tension obviously felt between the conviction as to men's "Oneness in Christ" and the practical difficulties in expressing it, whether in a common understanding of Christian ethics across cultural lines, attempts to worship across cultures, or inter-cultural marriages.

Rev. Christopher Webber, St. Alban's Church, and, later, Father Spae, spoke of the life that bespeaks Christ, without words. "All our languages are, in actuality, second languages," said Father Webber. "Christ is our common language, and we all need to learn to live our common language more clearly."

Other pastors hoped to uncover in forms of non-verbal communication ways to experience the Oneness of Christ across linguistic lines. Yet pastors in the Philippines and India reminded the group that even where there is a common language used, like English, there are difficulties to be surmounted.

ECUMENICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL IN JUNE

A second Ecumenical Music Festival will be held Sunday, June 8, from 2:30 to 4:30 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. It was this concert that last year drew a standing-room-only crowd of 2,500.

Music on the theme, "Resurrection," will be performed by choirs from the Japan Episcopal Church, the Japan Catholic Church, the Japan Orthodox Church, Lutheran Churches, and the Tokyo district of The United Church of Christ.

The sponsoring Church Music Committee, in its announcement of the Festival, urges other areas to consider sponsoring such programs and invites inquiries to c/o Seigoro Ushimaru, 3-1633 Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171.

PROF. TOSHIKAZU TAKAO SPEAKS TO YOUTH LEADERS

"It's a miracle there are any young people left in the churches today considering how self-centered the churches are, and how little concerned they are with social and political issues," Kanto Gakuin Theological Seminary's sharp-tongued Assistant Prof. Toshikazu Takao told youth workers at the annual NCC-sponsored meeting, April 7-9 at Hachioji.

The attitude of students toward the world today, Takao said, is expressed in the words "total" and "radical," so that partial solutions have no meaning for them. They are also a generation which has no confidence in "words." They may admit that a statement sounds good but that is not enough; they must see it expressed in actions. Their distrust of words has serious implications for the church especially, as it comes face to face with them.

Takao traced several stages in the image of the Japanese Christian. In the Meiji era he was known by the name, Yaso, as a follower of Jesus Christ who fought against the established order. During the Taisho era (1926-25) the Christian came to be called by the English word "Christian," with the connotation of a cultured gentleman of more or less high standards. During the Showa period (1926- ) the word was altered to the Japanese adaptation, kirisutosha, carrying with it the suggestion of a man socially concerned. The designation continued for a long time although, said Takao, the Christian himself gradually became "tame."

Now a new figure is emerging characterized, said Takao, by members of the tataku kirisutosha domei (Association of Fighting Christian Students) which is in the fore of struggles on the Meiji Gakuin campus. It is the style of these students to be "anonymous beings," trying to identify themselves with the oppressed, Takao said.

Mr. Sung Jung Park, Youth secretary for the World Council of Churches, who has been visiting in Japan during April, reported on the "happenings" prompted by the presence of youth at the Uppsala and Finland world meetings last summer, reports which did not necessarily contradict Takao's presentation of the stance of youth.

The possibility of inviting several youth themselves to participate in the meeting had been rejected, with the feeling that it would be a mere token.

Delegates from the Korean Christian Church in Japan reminded the other youth leaders that if they are really serious about becoming involved in the Japanese social situation, they cannot ignore the plight of 600,000 Koreans living in Japan under discriminatory and prejudicial conditions. Their appeal registered deeply on the minds of these present.

COLLOQUIAL JAPANESE LITURGY PROVES POPULAR

(from Tosei News)

Japanese Catholics show overwhelming support for the vernacular liturgy and indicate a decided preference for the colloquial-style (kogatai) translations of the Canons of the Mass, according to figures released by the Liturgy Commission of the Japan Catholic Church.

The results of a survey conducted last fall show a reversal in preferences over four years ago when literary-style Japanese, or more accurately the old court language of Japan, was widely used in all prayerbooks and liturgy publications and any change in the official prayer language was almost unthinkable. Modern-day Japanese was introduced gradually into the liturgy, first, in the Scripture readings for Mass and later into the Canon itself. The experience has convinced many of its practicality and of how much more understandable it is. The strong support given it by all classes and ages also provides a mandate to the Liturgy Commission to offer better and more up-to-date translations.

In 8,015 replies to a questionnaire sent in September to 30,000 people in all 15 dioceses in Japan, 33.4% of the men and 38.8% of the women prefer that colloquial-style Canons always be used, as against 12% and 9% for the literary-style and 4.3% and 3.3% for Latin. Priests (61%) are the strongest advocates of the use of colloquial-style translations, while religious (28.4%) show a preference for Latin-language Masses at all times. (The results of the questionnaire are given in more detail in the March 28 issue of Tosei News.)

DR. LEE TO ATTEND RACISM CONFERENCE

Dr. In Ha Lee, interim general secretary of the NCC, will participate in a Consultation on Racism to be held in London, England, May 19-24, under the sponsorship of the World Council of Churches.

The purpose of the Consultation, according to preliminary announcements, is "to recommend a programme of education and action for the eradication of racism to the World Council and its 234 member churches." Attendance will include persons from member-WCC churches and consultants from all six continents and a variety of countries, situations and positions.

As general secretary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, Dr. Lee is well qualified both to communicate his first-hand experiences and knowledge of the minority situation in Japan and to bring back to churches in Japan and the NCC sub-committee on minority problems wisdom and suggestions generated by the Consultation.

MINISTERING TO THE MAN BACK OF THE JOINT VENTURE

(continued from page 1)

The Tokyo setting of the Conference focused much of the attention on Japanese living situations--situations which others felt somewhat more extreme than theirs. On the other hand, pastors from Vietnam and Pakistan spoke of the depressing effect of living in the midst of seemingly endless poverty and pain, and Hong Kong and India pastors expressed concern for the economic structures within their societies and the responsibility of foreign business men in this area.

Tentative plans were made to hold a similar conference with, if possible, more lay participation, in Hong Kong in 1970.

### CHURCH-SPONSORED RADIO PROGRAM A HIT WITH 15-19-YEAR-OLDS

A midnight disc-jockey radio program produced by AVACO and sponsored by the Joint Broadcasting Committee of The United Church of Christ in Japan was rated fourth out of 560 programs by 15 to 19-year-old listeners to the Nankai Broadcasting Station, according to the results of a recent Station survey. The program, "A Friend of the Heart," broadcast from 12:00 to 12:10 nightly over the Nankai network, was rated 17th in the total program fare by all listeners. Station managers expressed considerable surprise at the high listenership accorded a religious program.

The program format consists of discussions of current topics by the Rev. Takeshi Nakashima and recordings requested by listeners. The popularity of the program is felt to stem from the music it features and the interest of the topics taken up--a university professor's remark that "the police is my enemy"; "beauty and ugliness," creativity, etc. against the background of the Bible.

### KANTO ASHRAM BEING HELD

Continuing the tradition began twenty years ago by Dr. E. Stanley Jones, an Ashram for the Kanto area will be held April 28-29 at Ranzanso Hotel in Okumusashi National Park. Rev. Yasuo Enomoto, Imabari Church of The United Church of Christ, will speak. A well-known spiritual leader, Rev. Enomoto has recently had his autobiography published under the title Chii Roba ("Little Donkey"). The theme of the Ashram is "Just One Is Needed."

### DR. JOSEPH NORDENHAUG VISITS IN ADVANCE OF WORLD BAPTIST MEETING

Looking to the 1970 Baptist World Congress to take place in Tokyo, Dr. Joseph Nordenhaug, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, visited Japan from April 14-22.

At a reception April 21 at International House, Dr. Nordenhaug emphasized the Congress theme, "Reconciliation Through Christ" and his hope that the Congress will help point men to this experience. The quinquennial meeting, being held for the first time in a country where the Christian population is a minority, is expected to draw 8,000 overseas guests.

Dr. Nordenhaug, 57, is a Norwegian who was educated in Norway and the United States. He served as chancellor of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, for ten years before becoming general secretary of the BWA in 1960. The BWA includes Baptist groups in 124 countries, with a total membership of 28 million.

JAPAN NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The following roster shows the nature of the Japan National Christian Council, in which both churches and Christian organizations may hold full or associate membership.

Member Denominations and Organizations

The Episcopal Church of Japan	Nippon Sei Ko Kai
Japan Baptist Convention	Nihon Baputesuto Renmei
Japan Baptist Union	Nihon Baputesuto Domei
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church	Nihon Fukuin Ruteru Kyodai
The Korean Christian Church in Japan	Zainichi Daikan Kirisuto Kyodan
United Church of Christ in Japan	Nippon Kirisuto Kyodan
Christian Kindergarten Union	Kirisutokyo Hoiku Renmei
Education Association of Christian Schools	Nihon Kirisutokyo Gakko Kyoiku Domei
Japan Christian Cultural Society	Nihon Kirisutokyo Bunkakyokai
Japan Christian Medical Association	Nihon Kirisutosha Ikarenmei
National Committee, YMCAs of Japan	Nihon YMCA
Japan YWCA	Nihon Kirisutokyo Joshi Seinenkai
Women's Christian Temperance Union of Japan	Nihon Kirisutokyo Fujin Kyofukai

**JAPAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

Associate Members

Christian Catholic Church
Christian Churches in Colonies for Hansen's Disease
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Japan
German East Asian Mission
German Midnight Mission
German-speaking Evangelical Church
International Christian University Church
Japan Council on Christian Evangelism for the Blind
Japan Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
Japan Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Nippon Christian Academy
Swiss East Asian Mission
Tokyo Union Church

RECOMMENDED RSOURCES:

MISSION INDUSTRY--guidelines for the development of the church's work in Asian Industrial Society, published by the Committee on Urban-Industrial Mission of the East Asia Christian Conference--for people in and concerned about industrial mission. Order from Japan NCC, 5-1 Ginza 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104, Japan, ¥180.

THE UPPSALA 1968 REPORT, of the World Council meetings, \$3.50\*

UPPSALA SPEAKS, containing the Section Reports, discussion, and comment, \$1.50\*

\* Order from World Council of Churches Publications Office, 150, route de Ferney, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.